

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03677 160736Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

-----161329Z 053802 /43

R 160658Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6170

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLUMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3677

PASS DEPT OF LABOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, JA, ILO, ICFTU

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON JAPANESE LABOR'S RELATIONS WITH ASIAN UNIONS

1. ON MARCH 7 A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPANESE AND ASIAN LABOR UNIONS TOOK PLACE IN TOKYO, SPONSORED BY SOHYO'S ASIAN LABOR INSTITUTE TOGETHER WITH SOHYO-AFFILIATED UNIONS WHICH BELONG TO ICFTU-ARO. SEMINAR WAS ASIAN LABOR INSTITUTE'S FIRST ARO-RELATED PROGRAM SINCE INSTITUTE'S FOUNDING TWO YEARS AGO. SPEAKERS  
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WERE ARO PRESIDENT DEVAN NAIR AND ARO SECRETARY V. S. MATHUR.

2. LEADOFF SPEECH BY NAIR WAS FREE-SWINGING CRITICISM OF BOTH LARGE JAPANESE LABOR FEDERATIONS, SOHYO AND DOMEI, FOR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT MEANINGFUL AID PROGRAMS FOR THEIR FELLOW FREE TRADE UNIONS IN

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ASIA. NAIR SAID: "ONLY IN RECENT PAST HAVE MODEST CONTRIBUTIONS BEEN MADE TO ASIAN SOLIDARITY FUND OF ICFTU-ARO BY DOMEI AND SOHYO. THIS OUGHT TO BE MATTER OF SHAME FOR JAPANESE TRADE UNIONS SINCE THEY PROFESS, AT LEAST IN THEORY, AN ASIAN KINSHIP.. JAPANESE TRADE UNIONS USE THEIR SOLIDARITY FUNDS, NOT TO PROVIDE CONCRETE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO TRADE UNIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ASIA, BUT IN FINANCING DELEGATIONS FROM THEIR UNIONS TO GO ON "STUDY MISSIONS" TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN EAST ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND SOUTH ASIA. WHAT THESE MISSIONS HAVE "STUDIED," AND WHAT CONCRETE RESULTS HAVE EMERGED FROM SUCH "STUDIES" REMAIN MYSTERIES FOR THE ICFTU-ARO." DESPITE NAIR'S BLUNTNESS, PRESIDENT SOHYO SECGEN TOMIZUKA SHOWED NO REACTION TO IT AND IN FACT, AT SEMINAR'S CLOSE, GAVE GRACIOUS LENGTHY SPEECH THANKING NAIR FOR HIS PARTICIPATION.

3. COMMENT: LABOR SOURCES TELL US SOHYO'S MAIN MOTIVE IN HOLDING ARO-CENTERED SEMINAR WAS TO DEFLECT CRITICISM OF ASIAN LABOR INSTITUTE COMING FROM RIVAL FEDERATION, DOMEI. DOMEI VIEW WAS THAT INACTIVE INSTITUTE WAS SUPERFICIAL ATTEMPT TO STRENGTHEN SOHYO'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE IN NON-COMMUNIST LABOR MOVEMENTS OF ASIA.

4. WE ARE TOLD DOMEI ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE ARO EXECUTIVES NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN SEMINAR. NAIR, HOWEVER REPORTEDLY REFUSED, TELLING DOMEI THAT, SINCE SEMINAR BEING SPONSERED NOT ONLY BY INSTITUTE BUT ALSO BY SOHYO  
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UNIONS BELONGING TO ICFTU-ARO, IT WOULD BE PROPER FOR HIM TO ATTEND. DOMEI ACCEPTED NAIR'S REASONING BUT ITSELF DECIDED TO BOYCOTT SEMINAR.  
BUTTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009